



Quick List for Hiring a Contractor or Remodeler

Before hiring

- ☐ Plan your project carefully.
- ☐ Interview several qualified registered contractors/remodelers and solicit written bids.
- ☐ Look for the contractor registration number in advertisements for contractors—and verify that it is current with L&I.
- ☐ Check out the contractor records with other consumer protection organizations.
- ☐ Check for warning signs of a scam or fake contractor.
- ☐ Ask for references and then check them out.
- ☐ Make sure you receive the legally required disclosure statement before work begins.

Hiring tips

- ☐ Get references for the contractor's suppliers. Check out the contractor's payment record.
- ☐ Find out about liens and how they impact you.
- ☐ If your project is more than \$6,000, request the contractor post a performance bond for the entire cost of the project.
- ☐ Try to anticipate problems and inconveniences. Ask for a disclosure statement prior to work starting.
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Monitoring

- ☐ Make frequent inspections of the work.
- ☐ Call your local building department to check on required permits
- ☐ Be very careful about paying for work that has not been finished.
- ☐ Put in writing any changes to your original agreement.
- ☐ Pay as significant work is completed.

Closing the deal

- ☐ Before making final payment on a project, request a completed lien release.
- ☐ If you have a problem with work that has been improperly done, not done at all, or have been stuck with a lien, check out your options for recourse at Problems with contractors or remodelers.